

St Mary's Church, Walkley



The Church on the Road:
Inclusive, Eucharistic, a safe place to be with God

*The candles invite us to praise and to pray
when Christmas greets Easter on Candlemas Day.*

Candlemas

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

Eucharist

1st February 2026

Welcome to St Mary's Church, Walkley

President: The Revd Dr Beth Keith, Priest in Charge
Preacher: The Revd Dr Beth Keith, Priest in Charge
Team Warden: Janet

The Gathering and Opening Hymn

We stand and we sing the opening hymn.

Tune: Hyfrydol – Alleluia sing, to Jesus

**Angels sang in celebration,
sang a new age come to birth,
heralding a new creation,
promising God's peace on earth.
Still we ache to hear their singing,
long to know their word fulfilled
as another year is turning
with a hope not to be stilled.**

**Mary sang of liberation,
God at work among the poor,
come to heal the world's frustration,
love insistent at the door.
Longing for a new beginning,
myriad Marys sound her song;
round the world, while bells are ringing,
God is still at war with wrong.**

**Simeon sang to end his story,
sang of nations deep in night
soon to see both Israel's glory
and a whole world filled with light.
As we turn a page of history,
full of wonders, joy and pain,
we too pray to see God's victory
and the day when Christ will reign.**

Alan Luff b. 1928
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President In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The Greeting

President The Lord be with you.

All **and also with you.**

President Dear friends, forty days ago we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now we recall the day on which he was presented in the Temple, when he was offered to the Father and shown to his people. As a sign of his coming among us, his mother was purified, as we now come to him for cleansing. In their old age Simeon and Anna recognized him as their Lord, as we today sing of his glory. In this eucharist, we celebrate both the joy of his coming and his searching judgement, looking back to the day of his birth and forward to the coming days of his passion.

The Confession and Absolution

Minister Hear the words of our Saviour Jesus Christ:
'I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me shall never walk in darkness
but shall have the light of life.'
Let us therefore bring our sins into his light
and confess them in penitence and faith.

John 8.12

We keep a time of silence.

All **Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought,
in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love,
and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed,
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light.
Amen.**

President May the God of love
bring us back to himself,
forgive us our sins,
and assure us of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

We remain standing and we sing:

The Gloria in Excelsis

Cantor Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,

All **Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

Cantor Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

All **Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

Cantor Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

All **Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

Cantor For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

All **Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

The Collect

President Let us pray:

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God.

All **Amen.**

We sit.

The Reading: Hebrews 2. 14 - end

Reader A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual Hymn

We stand and we sing. During the hymn we turn to face the processional cross as the book of the Gospels moves to the middle of the people.

The Gospel Reading: Luke 2. 22 - 40

Minister Today the Lord is presented in the Temple in substance of our mortal nature.

All **Alleluia.**

Minister Today the Blessed Virgin comes to be purified in accordance with the law.

All **Alleluia.**

Minister Today old Simeon proclaims Christ as the light of the nations and the glory of Israel.

All **Alleluia. Praise to Christ, the light of the world.**

Minister Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Minister This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon

We stand.

The Creed

President Let us declare our faith in God,

All **We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

We sit or kneel.

The Prayers of Intercession

Intercessor Lord, have mercy.
All **Christ, have mercy.**

Or another response is used.

Intercessor Merciful Father,
All **accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

We stand.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

President In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high has broken upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.78,79

All The peace of the Lord be always with you,
and also with you.

Minister Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We exchange the peace through smiles, waves and handshakes
with those around us, as you feel comfortable.*

The Offertory Hymn

We stand and we sing as the altar is prepared. If you would like to support St Mary's, donations can be made after the service at the back of church using the collection plate or contactless card giving station. If you would like to give regularly to St Mary's please speak to the Treasurer, or one of the Team Wardens.

**In his temple now behold him
see the long-expected Lord;
ancient prophets had foretold him,
God has now fulfilled his word,
now to praise him, his redeemed
shall break forth with one accord.**

**In the arms of her who bore him,
Virgin pure, behold him lie,
while his aged saints adore him,
ere in faith and hope they die.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
See, th'incarnate God most high.**

**Jesus, by your presentation,
when they blessed you, weak and poor,
make us see our great salvation,
seal us with your promise sure,
and present us in your glory
to your Father, cleansed and pure.**

**Prince and author of salvation,
be your boundless love our theme!
Jesus, praise to you be given,
by the world you did redeem,
with the Father and the Spirit,
Lord of majesty supreme.**

Henry J. Pye (1851)
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The Eucharistic Prayer

President The Lord is here.

All **His Spirit is with us.**

President Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

President Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

President It is indeed right and good,
always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise
through Jesus Christ, who is one with you from all eternity.

For on this day he appeared in the Temple
in substance of our flesh
to come near to us in judgement.

He searches the hearts of all your people
and brings to light the image of your splendour.

Your servant Simeon acclaimed him as the light to lighten the
nations
while Anna spoke of him to all who looked for your redemption.

Destined for the falling and rising of many,
he was lifted high upon the cross
and a sword of sorrow pierced his mother's heart
when by his sacrifice he made our peace with you.

And now we rejoice and glorify your name
that we, too, have seen your salvation
and join with angels and archangels
in their unending hymn of praise:

Cantor Holy Holy Holy Lord

All **Holy Holy Holy Lord**

Cantor God of power and God of might

All **God of power and God of might**

Cantor Heaven and earth are full of your glory

All **Heaven and earth are full of your glory**

Cantor Hosanna in the highest

All **Hosanna in the highest**

Cantor Blessed is he who comes

All **Blessed is he who comes**

Cantor In the name of the Lord most High

All **In the name of the Lord most High**

Cantor Hosanna

All **Hosanna**

Cantor Hosanna
All **Hosanna**
Cantor Hosanna in the highest
All **Hosanna in the highest**

President We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Minister Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

Cantor Dying you destroyed our death
All **Dying you destroyed our death**

Cantor Rising you restored our life
All **Rising you restored our life**

Cantor Lord Jesus come
All **Lord Jesus come**

Cantor Lord Jesus come
All **Lord Jesus come**

Cantor Come again in glory
All **Come again in glory**

President Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with Mary, Mark, John, and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

We sit or kneel.

The Lord's Prayer

President Believing the promises of God,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

All **Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

President We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

All **God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

The Giving of Communion

President Jesus is the Christ, the Chosen of God,
All **the one who will bring healing to the nations.**

The president will give instructions on how to come forward for communion and on returning to our seats. All are welcome to come to front for the bread and wine or a blessing. If you would like a blessing please keep your arms folded across your chest at you approach the front.

The president will dip the wafer in the wine before giving it to you. Gluten free wafers are available, please ask at the altar. During the distribution we sing and music is played.

The Notices

We stand.

The Candlemas Liturgy

President Blessed are you, Lord our God,
King of the universe.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

President Your light shines on us
and all peoples shall see your glory.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

President You gave us Jesus to be the light of the world;
he makes our darkness to be light.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

President Through the Holy Spirit your love burns within us,
bearing witness to your truth.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

President As we bear your light,
may our lips never cease to sing your praise.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

President Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

We remain standing as we sing, most of the Nativity is removed and our candles are lit.

Tune: St Denio – Immortal, invisible

**When candles are lighted on Candlemas Day
the dark is behind us, and spring's on the way.
The kings have departed, the shepherds have gone,
the child and his parents are left on their own.**

**They go to the temple, obeying the law,
and offer two pigeons, the gift of the poor.
But Anna and Simeon recognise there
the Christ-child who came at the turn of the year.**

**The old who have suffered and waited so long
see hope for the world as they welcome the young.
They gaze at God's wonderful answer to prayer,
the joy of the Jews and the Gentiles' desire.**

**They see before Mary a heart-piercing grief,
but trust is complete at the end of their life.
For Mary will follow, with tears in her eyes,
her Saviour and Son to the foot of the cross.**

**O Spirit of God, with like courage inspire
your everyday saints who face up to despair.
They pass through temptation, through failure, through death.
When darkness descends, they plod onward in faith.**

**Like Anna, like Simeon, may they have trust,
the eyes to see Jesus, and peace at the last.
The candles invite us to praise and to pray
when Christmas greets Easter on Candlemas Day.**

Elizabeth Cosnett
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Minister Lord God, the springing source of everlasting light,
pour into the hearts of your faithful people
the brilliance of your eternal splendour,
that we, who by these kindling flames
light up this temple to your glory,
may have the darkness of our souls dispelled,
and so be counted worthy to stand before you
in that eternal city where you live and reign,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

We remain standing as we sing:

Tune: Gonfalon Royal

**Now let your servant go in peace;
for praise and blessing here increase;
for in our midst your word is done
and you have sent your promised one.**

**Before the peoples you prepare
your way of life which all may share.
Your saving power is now made known;
among the nations love is shown.**

**Child, you are chosen as a sign
to test the human heart and mind;
for secrets hidden in the night
shall be revealed in piercing light.**

**Now let us sing our Saviour's praise,
and tell God's goodness all our days,
while breath is ours, let praise be heard
for God's own faithful, saving word. Amen.**

Percy Buck, 1871-1947 (v1-3) Ruth Duck, (v4)
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President Father, here we bring to an end our celebration
of the Saviour's birth.

All **Help us, in whom he has been born,
to live his life that has no end.**

President Here we have offered the Church's sacrifice of praise.

All **Help us, who have received the bread of life,
to be thankful for your gift.**

President Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna.

All **Help us, who have found the Lord in his temple,
to trust in your eternal promises.**

President Here we have greeted the light of the world.

All **Help us, who bear these candles,
never to forsake the light of Christ.**

President Here we stand near the place of baptism.

All **Help us, who are marked with the cross,
to share the Lord's death and resurrection.**

President Here we turn from Christ's birth to his passion.

All **Help us, for whom Lent is near,
to enter deeply into the Easter mystery.**

President Here we bless one another in your name.

All **Help us, who now go in peace,
to shine with your light in the world.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Refreshments are served after the service.

For more information: stmaryswalkley.co.uk

